

I. Project Title:

CPR
Communities Protecting Rivers

Revitalizing, empowering, and strengthening communities,
which in turn revitalizes and strengthens nearby rivers.

I. Project Purpose:

- a. Essentially, **CPR**, *Communities Protecting Rivers*, is a process for neighborhoods to stop stormwater pollution at their doorstep. The primary goal of **CPR** is to work with four communities within the environmental justice areas (identified by 2010 U.S. Census) and provide assistance to community leaders for recognizing environmental issues and those that may cause public health concerns. Once issues and concerns are identified, community volunteers will receive guidance and assistance in the implementation of self-determined mitigation projects that will result in long-term, sustainable improvements. Removing dumpsites, litter, and by infilling and repurposing vacant lots into useful and community-used common areas which will improve home values, and the community as a whole. Inevitably, these actions will also improve nearby waterways, such as the Blue River.

CPR's second goal is to work directly with underserved youth by partnering with Urban Ranger Corps, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The Mission of the Corps is to help prepare at-risk inner city youth for responsible and productive future through a program of disciplined work experience and service in their community; leadership development; and individualized planning for post-High School careers. This partnership will provide youth members the opportunity for involvement with environmental issues such water quality studies, data analysis, critical thinking and problem solving. Additionally, these young citizens will engage in environmental activism by assisting in the community planning meetings, physical improvements to neighborhoods, and opportunity to participate in not only community service, but especially in leadership roles.

- b. The **CPR** project will take place in Kansas City, Missouri, in the following zip codes:
- * 64129 – Eastwood Hills Neighborhood Association
 - * 64132 – Marlborough East Neighborhood Association
 - * 64128 – Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association
 - * 64130 – Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association
- c. In keeping with the mission of the Blue River Watershed Association and that of the primary partner in **CPR**, Heartland Conservation Alliance, the project will address the Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3). Youth participants and community residents will conduct water quality monitoring studies to determine the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. Based on results from the data analysis, Neighborhood Associations will then determine the best courses of action within each community.
- d. **CPR**'s Partner Agencies:
- Heartland Conservation Alliance (HCA), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, consisting of an alliance of conservation supporting partners (nonprofit, municipal, quazi-governmental, city, county, state, and federal).

- Urban Ranger Corps, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, which helps prepare at-risk inner city youth for responsible and productive futures.
- Eastwood Hills Neighborhood Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
- Marlborough Neighborhood Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
- Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
- Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
- Kansas City, Missouri Parks & Recreation, a Department of Kansas City Government
- Kansas City, Missouri Water Services, a Department of Kansas City Government

II. Environmental and/or Public Health Information about the Affected Community:

Environmental & Public Health Issues: The communities served by this project are selected due to their close proximity within the Middle and Lower Blue River watershed. Jacques Cousteau once said, “We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one.” The connection between a river and a community is made far more intimate with proximity and yet, the old adage, ‘familiarity breeds contempt’ can sometimes be applied. The communities involved are closely tied to the watershed they lie in. However, due to the seriously degraded nature of the Blue River, residents may at times view the river solely as a nuisance. This contemptuous belief creates a barrier and a separation between the residents and their role in the cause and effect of environmental, economic, and health issues related to water quality. These relationships, between neighbors and their river, the environment and health, are what this project will address.

The Middle and Lower Blue River sections are highly urbanized with extensive residential, commercial, and industrial development and water quality is severely compromised. Studies conducted in the Middle Blue River Basin over the past twenty years show that water quality has been adversely affected by urbanization and point and non-point source pollution. Adding to the degradation of water quality in the Middle Blue River basin is the presence of combined sewer overflows (CSOs). Roughly 90 percent of the CSO outfall points in Kansas City, Missouri are located within the Blue River watershed.

Three wastewater treatment plants are located upstream from the middle Blue River basin. During dry periods, stream flow derived from wastewater effluent in the Blue River approaches 50% with the remaining 50% originating as ground water. Only in-stream processes remove a small part of effluent nutrients in the Blue River; this indicates that nutrient levels often exceed the ecological assimilation capacity of some streams. During storms, urban non-point runoff can contribute as much as 70% of the contaminate load in parts of the basin.

Significant amounts of chemical pollutants in stormwater runoff have been found in the Blue River. Persistent chemicals such as chlordane and dieldrin have been used throughout the watershed. Residues of these chemicals have been detected above the FDA action levels in fish from the Blue River. Since 1985, there has been fish consumption advisory on the Blue River due to elevated chlordane levels. The Missouri Department of Health (MDOH) recommends that anglers limit their consumption to no more than one meal per week. Pregnant or nursing mothers and young children may be at higher risk and should consume even less than one meal per week of contaminated fish. Carp and channel catfish fillets have also had levels of dieldrin exceeding the FDA action level.

Bacteria concentrations in the Middle Blue River Basin are largely the result of non-point source contributions during storm runoff. Single sample *E. coli* concentrations in the basin are usually greater than the recommended USEPA full-body contact limit of 235 col/100 ml (colonies per 100 milliliters of water). In a USGS study of the Blue River Basin from July 1998-October 2000, the median concentration of *E. coli* on the Blue River was 800 col/mL and 490 col/mL on Brush Creek. At best, recreational activities in the lower reaches of the Blue River and Brush Creek should be restricted to limited body contact. EPA's mobile application, "Water Bug" typically shows the Blue River as, "Red: Contact with water is not advised."

Stream bank erosion and flooding are also serious problems along basin streams. The proliferation of impervious surfaces in the watershed increases the amount and rate of runoff to basin streams.

Most stream corridors in the middle Blue River basin are in private ownership and have been severely abused. Riparian timber has been removed, segments have been channelized, and trash dumped along streams. Residents living in the Blue River watershed disregard the Blue River and its tributaries as important natural resources and valuable areas for outdoor recreation. For these people, the Blue River conjures up visions of flooding, contaminated water, fish kills, and stream corridors degraded by urban development. Frequent media articles that emphasize negative rather than positive aspects of the river reinforce these attitudes, as do recent national chemical and river news stories.

- b. Characteristics of Affected Community: The physical nature of the four neighborhoods typify the types of communities that make-up a large urban area. Focusing on communities designated by Census as being within environmental justice areas, the issues of stormwater runoff, flooding, erosion, water quality and pollution, and resultant human health concerns become apparent. Due to repressed economic factors, these neighborhoods have degraded land use, loss of structures, increases in unpenalized and uncontrolled large dumpsites, and increased stormwater runoff issues. Original development was for single-family homes. However, current zoning in these areas permit two-family dwellings. This is not consistent with current land use patterns of light industrial and does not reflect the interests of the community.

According to the 2010 census, all of these communities have experienced decline in population while Kansas City's population has increased. Neighborhoods are remarkable by the number of vacant lots and vacant dangerous houses needing demolition. A 2012 Consolidated Plan approved by the City Council of Kansas City, identifies 23 houses that need major to minor repairs, 22 houses that need systematic code enforcement (owners of investment properties), removal of a dangerous building, acquisition of 8 houses, and infill 37 vacant lots in the Seven Oaks neighborhood, alone. This plan covers only two short streets in the neighborhood.

In Towns Fork Creek neighborhood, fifteen percent of the existing land use is vacant properties. These are spread throughout the residential sections of the neighborhood. Vacant properties are often sites for illegal dumping, drug sales, methamphetamine houses, and vagrancy, all which discourage home sales and development.

Marlborough neighborhoods have very few healthy food options - there are no grocery stores in the neighborhood, and smaller stores have not offered fresh fruit, produce, or many other healthy foods. Many residents don't have cars and have to travel infrequent, long, and inefficient bus

routes to grocery stores, facing challenges carrying and keeping groceries cold. Economic limitations are a significant barrier for many Marlborough families, who have to make tough choices to pay basic costs, and prioritizing healthy food can be difficult when it's not accessible.

Eastwood Hills Neighborhood Plan was adopted by the Kansas City Development Department to be part of the FOCUS Kansas City Plan in 2005. This designation provides a framework for improving infrastructure and identifying preferred land uses. Residents of Eastwood Hills recognize the decline in investment throughout the area and are concerned that new development will not be compatible with existing uses. They are also concerned that it will adversely affect the character of the neighborhood. The Blue River travels through the northwestern tip on this neighborhood boundary, and borders it for about a mile. Boundaries are, Coal Mine Rd. on the north, Raytown on the east, 55th Street on the south, and Blue Parkway on the west. According to 2010 Census, population of the 64129 zip code:

- African American: 4,152
- Asian: 98
- Hispanic: 988
- White: 4,969
- Mean House Value: \$81,000
- Mean Income: \$32,000
- Unemployment: 11.6%

Marlborough East Neighborhood Association is part of a larger community, Marlborough Community Coalition. This community began in 1907 and has celebrated a rich history growing up in Kansas City where everything is up to date. As with many eastside neighborhoods, Marlborough has slowly declined as city interests and wealth moving on to newer and more contemporary developments. Boundaries are, 75th Street on the north, the Blue River on the east, 89th Street on the south, and Prospect on the west. According to 2010 Census, population of the 64132 zip code:

- African American: 11,775
- Asian: 90
- Hispanic: 361
- White: 2,025
- American Indian: 270
- Hawaiian: 15
- Other: 162
- Mean House Value: \$65,000
- Mean Income: \$25,000
- Unemployment: 18.8%

Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association has currently been working with the City of Kansas City and their "KC Dream Home" program. Due to the \$34 million, St. Michael's Veterans Center that is scheduled to open Phase One winter of 2014, Seven Oaks is one of the neighborhoods surrounding the development getting a facelift. The City is committed to assist with demolition of abandoned and vacant homes removing debris, and acquiring and renovating an additional 15 homes in the area. In partnership is the Missouri Housing Development Commission and Kansas City TIF Commission making special mortgages available with \$5,000 grants for renovation for homeowners who purchase abandoned houses. Additionally, funds are available through RAMP or Minor Home Repair programs for even more upgrades to these special homebuyers. Therefore, neighbors are energized to continue with the improvements to their area. CPR's efforts to cleanup the neighborhood are needed and welcomed. These demolitions, renovations, and repurposing of houses will undoubtedly cause even more debris than typical to the neighborhood. Building materials from the 1920's and 1930's create multiple health hazards. This neighborhood needs CPR. Boundaries are, Linwood Blvd on the north,

Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd on the east, 39th Street on the south, and Cleveland Ave on the west in this 64128 zip code neighborhood:

- African American: 10,371
- Asian: 45
- Hispanic: 681
- White: 1,091
- American Indian: 217
- Hawaiian: 9
- Other: 370
- Mean House Value: \$53,000
- Mean Income: \$23,000
- Unemployment: 21.5%

Town Fork Creek neighborhood is named for the creek that transverses through the area from the southwest to northeast down the center of the watershed emptying into Brush Creek, a tributary of the Blue River. The southwestern section of the creek has been channeled and is covered by conduit north of 63rd Street and carried through where it opens before emptying into Brush Creek. The creek has a long history of flooding and drainage issues, which have had a negative impact on the neighborhood. Within the area are new development such as Swope Parkway Health Center, the country's largest urban park, Swope Park, Starlight Theater, and the Kansas City Zoo. Many other cultural and educational venues are nearby such as the Country Club Plaza, Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, the Civil War Museum, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the University of Missouri, Kansas City and Rockhurst University. Boundaries are, Swope Parkway on the north and east, 63rd Street on the south, and Prospect on the west within the 64130 zip code:

- African American: 11,775
- Asian: 90
- Hispanic: 361
- White: 2,025
- American Indian: 270
- Hawaiian: 15
- Other: 162
- Mean House Value: \$65,000
- Mean Income: \$25,000
- Unemployment: 18.8%

- c. Due to the low economic situations of homeowners in these neighborhoods, food and electricity and other essential needs are priority over new house paint and sealing the driveway. Houses easily run into disrepair, discouraged homeowners abandon homes once they become inhabitable. Areas with a low tax base seem to have a silent voice in City Hall.

The negative impact of stormwater runoff is increased where standard maintenance to infrastructure is missing. Neighborhoods have residential streets that lack drainage structures such as driveway culverts, roadside drainage ditches, or curbs and gutters. These stormwater mitigation measures directly impact the velocity and amount of runoff. Additionally, poorly maintained landscaping exacerbates silting and soil loss in water runoff, increasing water contamination. Many of the commercial properties are poorly maintained and have a blighting influence on these neighborhoods. Property and infrastructure maintenance contribute to perceptions of safety in neighborhoods.

Run-down facilities can, and do, invite an undesirable human element increasing crime and further affecting residents' health (mental, emotional, and physical). By involving residents in improving the health and welfare of their environment and watershed, they will in turn be improving their own health.

III. Organizations Historical Connection to the Affected Community:

- a. History of the organization's involvement with the affected community, including the length of involvement and how we became involved:

Eastwood Hills Neighborhood Association: HCA, lead partner in **CPR**, has a relationship with Eastwood Hills. HCA's partners at EPA and the City of Kansas City, Missouri, developed a sustainable reuse plan for the Eastwood Hills Neighborhood and Municipal Farm. (Municipal Farms Area Wide Brownfields Pilot is one of four projects of the Middle Blue River Partnership). Heartland Conservation Alliance is a co-lead on the project. In 2013, HCA officially adopted Eastwood Hills as one of three key Kansas City neighborhoods for HCA's strategic focus and impact. Involvement with the community has been planning meetings to identify and find ways to implement projects in plans created by the residents and build and maintain the momentum created by HCA partners.

Marlborough Community Coalition: After a long history beginning in 2008, HCA officially adopted Marlborough, in 2013, as one of three key Kansas City neighborhoods for strategic focus and impact. Involvement with the community has been a driving tour with neighborhood leaders and planning meetings to identify and find ways to implement projects in plans created by the residents and build and maintain the momentum created by HCA partners.

Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association: Relationship building with Seven Oaks began in 2009 when the Executive Director of BRWA was with a different agency and administering a multi-million dollar federal capacity-building grant and Seven Oaks was a subawardee. The grant cycle lasted for 12 months; during that time, Seven Oaks was able to attain their 501(c)3 status and accomplish many other goals and objectives

Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association (TFCNA): BRWA's relationship began in 2001 when now BRWA president, David Poirier (a hydraulics engineer), spoke to TFCNA's president on the phone regarding flooding issues with the creek. Communications picked up again in 2008 when David and staff went to TFCNA and gave a presentation at their community meeting regarding stormwater runoff, flooding, and degraded water quality. BRWA has assisted TFCNA with community cleanups and other community efforts. Additionally, Urban Rangers have had an ongoing relationship with Town Fork Creek for the last nine years. Rangers have assisted with cleanups, house painting, working for new sidewalks and gutters, community gardens, grass mowing, and other projects.

- c. How has the Applicant worked with the Affected Community's residents and/or organizations to address local environmental and/or public health issues:

Eastwood Hills Neighborhood Association: HCA worked with members of the Eastwood Hills neighborhood to develop a strategic plan for future land uses on the Municipal Farm site. Residents shared a desire for a strong, positive connection between the site and its surrounding neighborhoods and the opportunity to interact with the site through recreational and educational uses. Preservation and restoration of the site's natural character was an important value expressed by the community. Safe, multi-modal transportation opportunities were a priority for residents.

Marlborough Community Coalition: HCA partnered with several other local environmental organizations on the implementation of a pilot program utilizing green infrastructure to control stormwater runoff and beautifying the neighborhood using gardening and landscaping

techniques. As a result, the project was declared to be one of the most environmentally friendly in the country.

Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association: The executive director has a long-lasting relationship with this organization. BRWA and its partners are just beginning to conduct work in this neighborhood with the hopes of creating positive outcomes.

Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association: BRWA has worked with Town Fork Creek residents in mitigating flooding and stormwater runoff, neighborhood cleanups, and by providing resources, as needed.

- d. How the residents of the Affected Community were part of the decision-making process:

Eastwood Hills Neighborhood Association: At HCA's first public meeting for the Municipal Farm Plan, the community created the vision for the future of Municipal Farm and addressed neighborhood issues pertaining to the site. Attendees gave input on opportunities, constraints, and possible land uses for future site development. During the second public meeting, the community vetted the vision and the guiding principles and gave feedback on the draft land use plan.

Marlborough Community Coalition: For Target Green, in 2008, HCA and its partners, employed technical design tasks combined with extensive community involvement to gain support from neighboring residents and businesses and to measure how well the public involvement approaches were working in receiving support for the project. Outreach activities included community meetings, on-the-street meetings with residents, recruitment of block captains, engagement with neighborhood associations, outreach with business owners, door to door outreach, and distribution of information materials through numerous media including online, mailings, and door hangers.

Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association: When the executive director worked with Seven Oaks in the past, it was always utilizing cooperative planning techniques. Break-out sessions and small groups were common. Seven Oaks leadership made the financial and programmatic decisions regarding the Association.

Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association: BRWA came to the assistance of Town Fork Creek when requested. The two organizations have not had the opportunity previously to work on a collaborative project.

- e. How the applicant's efforts have increased the community's capacity to address local environmental and/or public health issues:

Eastwood Hills Neighborhood Association: Through HCA's partners, a strategic assessment enabled Eastwood Hills to evaluate its strengths and needs, and direct its assets towards its most critical needs. The neighborhood assessment empowered residents to self-identify its neighborhood type and to develop improvement strategies to direct neighborhood improvement

Marlborough Community Coalition: Through HCA Alliance, Target Green, because of the input that was received, the design of the project was changed significantly to not only install green infrastructure, but also incorporate neighborhood improvements such as sidewalk and street repairs and the installation of curbs. These improvements further demonstrate that green infrastructure can benefit communities beyond reducing sewer overflows and reducing the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewer system.

Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association: When the BRWA executive director, worked with Seven Oaks, the organization increased their capacity on many fronts, including environmental and public health concerns. Urban Rangers have provided cleanup and mowing services for Seven Oaks.

Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association: Organizational input with the TFCNA, has been limited. **CPR** will provide an opportunity to increase work with this organization with the outcome of increased capacity for dealing with environmental and human health issues.

- f. How the applicant has maintained and sustained an ongoing relationship with the affected community's residents and/or organizations:

Eastwood Hills Neighborhood Association: As with many good plans, it is implementation that is often most difficult and why the **CPR** Project is crucial to the continued improvements to the environment in the Eastwood Hills neighborhood. Heartland Conservation Alliance has made a long-term commitment to supporting the neighborhood and helping to advance their goals for open space, protecting their natural heritage and protecting their natural resources.

Marlborough Community Coalition: The Coalition looks to HCA, and its Alliance partners, for support in continuing dialogue with Kansas City Missouri Water Services and the EPA to assist with communications regarding, Target Green and Advanced Drainage Concepts, programs.

Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association: The executive director has a long-standing and continued relationship with Seven Oaks. BRWA, and its partners, look forward to developing opportunities for greater involvement working with this community.

Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association: BRWA responded to requests for assistance for flooding and other stormwater mitigation programs, and as needed. BRWA and its partners, view **CPR** as an opportunity to establish a multidimensional and long-term relationship with TFCNA.

IV. Project Description:

- i. The primary goal of **CPR** is to work with four neighborhood associations and provide assistance to community leaders in recognizing environmental issues and those that may cause public health concerns. (Each neighborhood will have its own set of meetings.) Residents will then be gathered and introductions will be made regarding the host organizations, the environmental and health concerns in the area, and **CPR**. The environmental issues will first be identified by training residents, and Urban Rangers, in water quality protocols and testing procedures through Blue River Watershed Association's T.R.U.E. Blue award-winning program (Teaching Rivers in Urban Environments). Water in the nearby Blue River will be tested giving residents a good idea of the pollution caused by stormwater runoff, water pollution, erosion, impervious surfaces, and other impacts from human activity.

Water quality testing will reveal coliform bacteria, E-coli, and other pollutants not only in the Blue River, but also carried in stormwater runoff. Additionally, the presence of large dumpsites attract disease-carrying vermin. By conducting the community cleanups these sources of detrimental health impacts will be remedied.

Further, the obesity epidemic disproportionately affects low socioeconomic status (SES) populations (Babey et al., 2007; Brennan et al., 2010; Coogan et al., 2010; Zhang & Wang, 2004). It has also been proven in numerous studies that people from minority backgrounds are more

likely to be overweight or obese (AHA, 2003; Kumanyika, 1994; WHO, 2000; Zhang & Wang, 2004). These health issues are exacerbated by the proven fact that low socio-economic status and minority populations, such as those in these communities, are less likely to meet physical activity recommendations than high income populations (August & Sorkin, 2011; Parks, Housemann & Brownson, 2003).

The goal of **CPR** to convert vacant lots into green spaces that lend themselves to development into recreational spaces will address these serious health issues present in environmental justice areas. Without nearby parks and clean, usable sidewalks, people are not inclined to take walks for heart-healthy exercise. Various studies have proven that proximity to parkland is positively associated with physical activity participation (Cohen et al., 2007; Kaczynski & Henderson, 2007; Roemmich et al., 2006). Additional considerations are the presence of certain facilities (e.g., playgrounds, trails) and amenities (e.g., drinking fountains, restrooms) promote park use and physical activity (Cohen et al., 2006; Kaczynski et al., 2008; Timperio et al., 2008). To compound this issue, studies show that neighborhoods of a lower SES and higher minority population often contain significantly fewer parks and recreational resources (Gordon-Larsen et al., 2006; Moore et al., 2008; Talen, 1997; Wolch et al., 2005). In Environmental Protection Agency's, Creating Equitable, Healthy, and Sustainable Communities: Strategies for Advancing Smart Growth, Environmental Justice and Equitable Development (EPA 231-K-10-005, February 2013), it emphasizes that the introduction of greenspace and pocket park facilities significantly increase the health and economic development potential of neighborhoods.

After the first water testing, results will be discussed at the second charrette where understanding of human impacts on the environment and resulting health threats will be emphasized. With members of the Urban Rangers assisting in facilitation of the charrettes, using a collaborative problem-solving approach, partners and residents will plan the course of action to make the best use of the vacant lots in their community. The Guidebook for Infill Lot Improvement Strategies, Scattered Sites, Kansas City, Missouri 12/13/12, will be used as a reference manual for planning groups.

During planning, residents will be engaged in weighing the attributes of alternative uses of vacant lots such as playgrounds, community gardens, rain gardens, and farmer's market area. Empowering Urban Rangers through participation at this planning stage develops an understanding of the processes that enable communities. It also creates buy-in to the physical work that accompanies the accomplishment by residents in the completion and realization of improvements of the neighborhood. Planning also gives time for Rangers and residents to bond before they begin work together. **CPR** will unite stakeholders and participants across age, race, and ethnic barriers resulting in a positive experience for everyone.

It is during water quality monitoring and community charrettes that **CPR**'s second goal is realized. Kansas City's underserved youth represented by the Urban Ranger Corps, experience career paths to environmental fields first-hand while standing at a river bank conducting water quality testing. They develop leadership skills working side-by-side with enthusiastic adults who are eager to see their dreams realized and the torch passed along to a new generation. A cascading effect occurs as young learn from elders and develop a love of the environment creating a legacy of stewardship. These young citizens will experience pride and

accomplishment as they participate in the planning process and then contribute physical improvements to neighborhoods and communities.

The partnerships created by this cooperative agreement program will enable the communities to recognize the empowerment found in collaborative problem solving. The communities' capacity to address and resolve environmental and/or public health issues will be greatly increased. **CPR** will be accomplished through the establishment of networking opportunities with resources in the area that can provide assistance in planning, design, and implementation of creative solutions to these basic problems. By developing, and continuing networking contact, neighborhood residents will have resources at hand to assist them with questions about their newly constructed vacant lot projects. **CPR** will assist communities in developing maintenance plans with resident champions for each plan and cycle. Each Neighborhood Association was selected partially based on the structure and strength of each community. Additionally, each Association came to the table with an improvement plan already in place. These residents are committed to cleanup, build, develop, and maintain their community.

Project Description/Milestone Schedule:

Timeline	Activity	Outcome	Org.
Phase I: week 6 – 12	1. Announce Award 2. Convene partners to discuss implementation (HCA, KCMOPR, Urban Rangers, KCMO Water)	1. Funding for CPR 2. Informed Project Leadership	BRWA
Phase II: week 12 – 20	1. Conduct initial Urban Ranger Mtg 2. Conduct Stormwater Training Residents/Rangers 3. Water Quality Data Collection Begins 4. Web-Based Data Recorded	1. Informed Rangers 2. Qualified Data Collection Teams/Informed Participants Cohesive and informed group 3. Scientific Data on Water Quality Issues for Analysis 4. Permanent Record Accessible Data for Residents/Rangers	BRWA
Phase III: Week 21 – 32	1. Community Planning begins through Charrettes 2. Water monitoring continues 3. Web-Based Data Recorded	1. Resident/Ranger Participation 2. Environmental/Health issues confirmed/disproved 3. Permanent Record Accessible Data	BRWA (HCA, KCCC, Water, Rangers)
Phase IV: Week 33 - 47	1. Neighborhood Cleanups Begin 2. Begin Neighborhood Project Design Phase. Seek Outside resources, if needed. 3. Water monitoring continues 4. Web-Based Data Recording Continues	1. Cleaned Vacant Lots Shine! 2. Thoughtful Designs Manifest 3. Permanent Record Accessible Data 4. Determinations of Any Changes	BRWA, (HCA, KCCC, Water, Rangers)
Phase V: Week 48 - 54	1. Secure Materials for Projects 2. Water monitoring continues	1. Materials Ready for Installation 2. Permanent Record Accessible Data	BRWA, (KCCC, HCA)
Phase VI: Week 55 - 71	1. Projects Begin	1. Revitalized Community, reduction in stormwater runoff, increased water quality, reduction in health hazards 2. Increase in Conservation Knowledge-base, Self-Esteem & Confidence in Rangers 3. Energized & Informed Community	BRWA, (HCA, KCCC, Rangers)

Phase VII: Week 72 - 77	1. Projects Wrap-up 2. Celebration Neighborhood-Tour: Residents show off their new lots to other participating Associations	1. Environmental Restoration 2. Community Pride	BRWA, (HCA, KCCC, Rangers, Water)
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ii. A Concise description of how the organization and its partners will work together during the year to address the issues:

a. Role of partners in addressing local environmental and public health issues:

Blue River Watershed Association (BRWA): Conducts water quality educational programming in the bi-state area (Missouri – Kansas). BRWA sponsors KC Clean Streams, the largest school-based litter pickup in the bi-state Kansas City Metropolitan Area with over 6,000 participants. BRWA fulfills all local municipalities (~13) with their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit requirements for environmental education. BRWA is requested to participate in countless committees across the Metropolitan Area to provide expertise on water quality issues, watersheds, stormwater runoff, water pollution, and similar environmental topics.

Heartland Conservation Alliance (HCA): Works to align landowners with land trusts to save threatened, or vulnerable sites. HCA works directly with landowners in placing land holdings into conservation easements. Additionally, HCA works with municipalities and neighborhoods to infill vacant lots to improve environmental and public health of communities.

Kansas City, Missouri, Conservation Corps (a division of Kansas City Parks & Recreation) (KCCC): Goals of the KCCC are to coordinate City resources to leverage volunteer efforts, educate City staff and community groups in conservation practices, maintain City's inventory of native and created natural resources, and support the City's Green Solutions and Climate Protection initiatives.

Kansas City, Missouri, Water Services: Designed and implemented pilot program for Marlborough Community Coalition, “Middle Blue River Basin Green Solutions Pilot Project”, includes maintenance on project up to 2015. Designs and implements stormwater runoff mitigation projects. Monitors and reports on water quality and public health issues of local waterways to area residents. Developed and provides oversight for overflow control plan on sewer system.

Urban Ranger Corps: Has agreements with several neighborhoods to clean and maintain empty lots, cut the grass of elderly and low-income families, and working with organizations as requests are made.

b. Nature of the organization and the resources they bring to the partnership:

Blue River Watershed Association: is a nonprofit organization whose mission is, to engage the Kansas City metropolitan community in protecting and restoring the Blue River Watershed, and other watersheds, through community education and outreach, demonstration projects and strategic partnerships with key members of the metro community. BRWA is known throughout the Kansas City Metropolitan Area for outstanding water quality environmental educational programming and community outreach. In 2012, over 10,000 people were reached with educational programming with a very small staff, which are all certified teachers.

Heartland Conservation Alliance (HCA): is a nonprofit organization whose mission is, HCA proactively conserves, protects and restores natural lands within the Kansas City region, benefitting the community and future generations by improving water quality, creating recreational opportunities, protecting life and property, and preserving our natural and cultural

heritage. HCA accomplishes its goals through collaboration with a network of public and private organizations and agencies that share its goals, values and objectives, and through public outreach and education. Because HCA is an alliance they bring many resources to the table; City Councilmen, policy makers, health professionals, and other business leaders are all connected with HCA. The goals and objectives of **CPR**, and two of the Neighborhood Associations, are completely inline with HCA's mission.

Kansas City, Missouri, Conservation Corps (KCCC): is a city government agency created in September 2009 with a mission to, provide residents of Kansas City with quality outdoor experiences and implement the preservation and conservation of natural and created resources. KCCC partners with nonprofit organizations, local governmental entities, and community groups to leverage available resources through volunteer and inter-governmental networking. The Conservation Corps has worked with the following groups on conservation oriented projects and programs: KC Wildands, Missouri Department of Conservation, Blue River Watershed Association, GreenWorks of Kansas City, Missouri Prairie Foundation, US Army Corps of Engineers, Westport-Roanoke Neighborhood Association, Jackson County Parks and Recreation, Blue River Rescue, and Missouri Master Naturalist Association.

Kansas City, Missouri, Water Services: is a city government agency with an environmental education department and a focus on environmental issues connected to water quality. Past and current programming and projects reflect the dedication to creative green solutions for mitigation of environmental and human health issues. Water Services is willing to share their technical design and engineering expertise for green solutions to stormwater runoff and other considerations that impact water quality especially during charrettes.

Urban Ranger Corps: a nonprofit organization whose mission is, to help prepare at-risk inner city youth for responsible and productive future through a program of disciplined work experience and service in their community; leadership development; and individualized planning for post-High School careers. The Rangers bring idealistic young minds, enthusiasm, hope for a better future, and a willingness to work for the betterment of other individuals and communities. They have a proven track-record in providing needed physical services, especially in the urban core where many of the residents are too old to manage the outdoor labor alone.

- c. How partners have vested interest in working with this partnership, commitments made and specific activities it will be responsible for.

Blue River Watershed Association (BRWA): As lead organization in **CPR**, BRWA will provide coordination, and facilitation between partners and neighborhoods. BRWA will provide training in water quality monitoring protocols and analysis to Urban Ranger Corps and residents. BRWA will act as lead contact and liaison with two of the four Neighborhood Associations, and as secondary contact for the remaining two Neighborhood Associations. BRWA will participate in all charrettes, participate in all cleanups, and take an active role during the infilling of vacant lots.

Heartland Conservation Alliance (HCA): will serve as primary partner to BRWA, assisting as needed to carry out details of the cooperative agreement program. HCA will serve as lead contact and liaison with two of the four Neighborhood Associations. HCA will also lead two sets of charrettes and provide technical assistance to groups, as needed.

Kansas City, Missouri, Conservation Corps (KCCC): will provide assistance with water testing, participate in all charrettes, participate in all cleanups, and take an active role during the infilling of vacant lots. This may include re-purposing playground and recreational equipment,

and providing mulch, etc. KCCC has assisted conservation groups throughout the metro on many projects and programs.

Kansas City, Missouri, Water Services: will provide assistance with water testing, participate in all charrettes, and lend other assistance as needed. Water Services has provided funding and staff support to conservation and water-related projects for decades. The KC community is a strongly collaborative group of people.

Urban Ranger Corps: will provide up to 15 young men (14 – 18 years-old) and staff, and conduct water quality testing, participate in charrettes, assist with community cleanups, and take an active role in infilling vacant lots. Rangers seek strong skills-building projects for the youth members.

All five participating partners in **CPR** have an established history of working together on various projects and programs. Additionally, each of the five have worked extensively with one or more of the Neighborhood Associations. The partners all share a common goal and focus on the resolution and mitigation of environmental issues and the resultant impact on human health and quality of life. **CPR** affords the opportunity for partners to further agency goals and objectives while empowering and enabling neighborhoods to create sustainable projects. These projects beautify communities while providing resolution to environmental issues and negative impacts on human health. The introduction to these Neighborhood Associations of the collaborative problem-solving model will increase their capacity for future development and enhancements.

- d. How the applicant plans to maintain and sustain partnerships:
These partnerships are formed from people and organizations that routinely work together. Partners see each other on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly basis at various meetings and locations throughout the Metro Area. Most, not only consider themselves colleagues, but friends. Therefore, when partnering on **CPR** sustainability will not be an issue; BRWA will maintain constant communication with all involved.

V. Organizational Capacity and Programmatic Capability:

- a. The organizational and administrative systems the organization has in place that will be used to appropriately manage, expend, and account for Federal funds.
Blue River Watershed Association has two means to successfully track, record, expend, account, and report the Federal funds received for **CPR**. The executive director of BRWA (applicant) uses an Excel spreadsheet to track all funding sources. Additionally, Blue River Watershed Association contracts with a nonprofit fiduciary source, SupportKC, to act as accounting agency for dispersal of all funds providing full accounting records. All fund dispersals will be handled through the executive director. Invoices will be required for payment, filed and maintained by BRWA, with copies to SupportKC. Excel tracking will be reviewed and compared to records on file with SupportKC to insure timely payments and accurate record keeping for project.
- b. How has the applicant successfully managed these projects in the past.
Blue River Watershed Association has received numerous federal, regional, and local grants, and awards in the past. Funding for these projects has been successfully handled through the system described above. All requirements for the dispersal of granted funds were successfully executed and within compliance. Additionally, the executive director has had extensive experience administering multi-million dollar, multi-year federal grants.

- c. How the applicant plans to effectively manage and successfully complete this proposed project. The executive director will use experience in the administration of federally funded grants to insure timeliness and project management to insure **CPR** is successfully completed. Utilizing the enclosed Timeline & Milestone chart will further aid in project management.
- d. Organizational experience to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. BRWA and the executive director have a proven track record in the administration and accomplishment of grant funded project achieving all stated goals and objectives as outlined in project work plan.
- e. Past performance in meeting, reporting requirements: BRWA, nor the executive director, have ever defaulted in reporting requirements. All completed reports have been filed in a timely manner, meeting all requirements and deadlines.

VI. Qualifications of the Project Manager (PM):

- a. The qualifications of the PM as they relate to the project:
The PM (BRWA executive director) has twenty years experience in conservation, and environmental education and community outreach. Seven years experience administering multi-million, multi-year federal grants dealing with capacity building with over 100 nonprofit organizations, and at-risk, transitional-aged, disengaged youth. Has taught courses on communication and education on the university level for over six years. Also, has worked in multiple situations utilizing partnerships and coalitions. Extensive nonprofit board experience (26 years) on national, regional, and local levels.
- b. How the PM has ties to the community and/or the organization:
Due to the extensive participation by the PM on numerous committees, boards, coalitions, work groups, and the conducting of educational programs in the field, there is strong commitment and bond between the PM and the community. Additionally, the PM has a weekly newspaper column on environmental issues and concerns, The Green Space, which is widely read.
- c. Past activities that the PM has worked on with the community:
PM has had direct past experiences with two of the four Neighborhood Associations. HCA representative has had direct past experiences with the other two of the four Neighborhood Associations. PM worked with Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association when administering a \$1.6 million capacity-building ACF grant. Seven Oaks was a \$10,000 subaward recipient. During this time, Seven Oaks was able to attain their 501(c)3 status, strengthen their board, and attain several of their other goals. PM also worked in the Town Fork Creek community during the administration of \$1.5 million Project Rise grant working with youth, their children and families, members of the church, and school. PM assisted the youth in attaining their GED, gaining job skills, serving internships and enrolling in college.

VII. Past Performance in Reporting on Outputs and Outcomes:

- a. A list of any Federal or Non-Federal grants or cooperative agreements of similar size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project that you have worked on within the last 3 years:
While Blue River Watershed Association has received numerous grants and awards, they have not been of similar size to this cooperative agreement program.
- b. Description of how you have documented and/or reported on progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under prior and/or current assistance agreements.

Progress has been reported in several different ways dependent on the requirements of the particular grant. Reports have been in the form of logic models and by completing quarterly, semi-annual, and annual online forms.

- c. If you did not make progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes describe whether you have documentation and/or reports satisfactorily explaining why.
N/A

VIII. Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds:

- SupportKC, a nonprofit independent accounting firm, will be instructed to setup a separate and dedicated accounting system for **CPR**.
- Partners will be instructed in the proper procedures for submitting invoices for remittance.
- Invoices will be filed at BRWA, with copies being submitted to Support KC within 5 working days of receipt.
- Upon receipt of funds, partners will notify PM that invoice has been paid.
- SupportKC will submit to BRWA monthly accounting reports for **CPR**. PM will review reports and compare to invoices.

IX. Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP):

Upon review it has been determined that **CPR** requires a QAPP. This will be completed before the initiation of project activities.